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011

FINAL

# DAILY BUGLE

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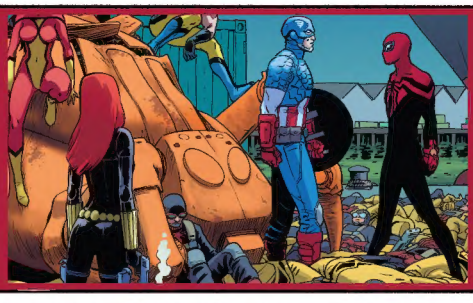
**INSIDE:** MOON KNIGHT RETURNS; JEAN GREY TO BE TRIED BY SHI'AR; NOVA FIGHTS ALONGSIDE BETA RAY BILL

# GREEN GOBLIN TERRORIZES CITY, DEMOLISHES SPIDER-ISLAND!

**The Green Goblin is engaging in an all-out war with Spider-Man, starting with the destruction of his arch-enemy's base, Spider-Island. The original Green Goblin, Norman Osborn, has been missing since disappearing from the hospital, despite being comatose after a run-in with the Avengers. Could this "Goblin King" really be Norman Osborn, or is it some unknown successor?**

## SPIDER-MAN NOT HIMSELF LATELY?

**Ever since Doctor Octopus's death, it seems that Spider-Man has been acting more sinister than usual. He was even spotted jumping through the window of Avengers Tower recently. An insider has told the Daily Bugle that Spider-Man quit the team after being confronted on his peculiar behavior as of late. What exactly has gotten into Spider-Man's head?**



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IF YOU HAD ASKED ME A WEEK AGO IF I THOUGHT I'D BE STRUNG UP BY A SPIDER-SLAYER NEXT TO A SPIDER-MAN FROM THE FUTURE, I'M PRETTY SURE MY ANSWER WOULD'VE BEEN "NO!"
IN FACT, WHEN YOU BOIL IT DOWN, THERE ARE REALLY JUST THREE MOMENTS IN LIFE THAT PEOPLE TRY TO VISUALIZE AHEAD OF TIME: THEIR TWENTY-FIRST BIRTHDAY, THEIR WEDDING DAY AND THE DAY THEY'RE GOING TO DIE.
FOR ME, HOWEVER, THERE WAS ANOTHER.
THE BIG QUESTION BEING, WHETHER IT WAS ACTUALLY A FOURTH IMAGE...
SEE SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN #29!
...OR JUST A DIFFERENT IMAGE OF THE THIRD?
FZZZZT!
BECAUSE IT'S THE DAY I KNEW I WOULD STARE INTO THE EYES OF NORMAN OSBORN AGAIN.
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!
SOMEONE ONCE SAID THE EYES ARE THE PORTALS TO THE SOUL.
BUT IN THIS CASE, THERE IS NO SOUL.
SO FOR ME IT MAKES HIS EYES JUST PORTALS.
PORTALS TO ANOTHER TIME.

Europe.
YEARS AGO.
CRAAK!
I HAD RECEIVED A LETTER INVITING ME TO COME TO EUROPE.
TO A PLACE WHICH WAS SURPRISINGLY NICER THAN I EXPECTED...
CONSIDERING THE LETTER CAME FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE.
COME IN, SIR. WE'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU.
NORMAN OSBORN HAD BEEN DEAD FOR YEARS.
BUT HIS REPUTATION HAD LIVED ON.
IN FACT, IT DID MORE THAN LIVE ON.
IT GREW.
YOU MAY GO IN, SIR.
AFTER YOU.
I'M SORRY, BUT THIS IS AS FAR AS I'VE BEEN PERMITTED.
HOW DO I KNOW THIS ISN'T A TRAP?
BECAUSE THAT'S NOT HOW WE TREAT THE GUESTS...

...OF NORMAN OSBORN.
CRACK!
IT REALLY WAS HIM.
WHY, DR. OCTAVIUS. YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE SEEN A GHOST.
GHOSTS DON'T MAKE ME JUMPY.
THEN LET ME MAKE YOU MORE COMFORTABLE.
BZZZ
NO!
THINKING BACK NOW, IT'S MOSTLY A BLUR.
RRRRIIIPPPPP!

THE KIND WHERE YOU WAKE UP IN THE MIDDLE OF AN ACTION YOU DON'T REMEMBER STARTING.
BUT I GUESS I INSTINCTIVELY KNEW THAT IF OSBORN HAD RETURNED...
...SO HAD THE GREEN GOBLIN.
ZAP!
WE HAD NEVER MINGLED IN THE PAST.
AND I REALLY DIDN'T WANT TO START NOW, BUT...
SIR?

YOU BUZZED FOR A BEVERAGE?
YES, FOR OUR GUEST HERE. BUT HE SEEMS TO HAVE A STRONG AVERSION TO ALCOHOL.
I DON'T DRINK.
TOO BAD, TOO. I TOLD ANDREW HERE THAT WE HAD A NOTED SCIENTIST VISITING AND THAT HE SHOULD CONCOCT SOMETHING APPROPRIATE.
WHAT DID YOU COME UP WITH, ANDREW?
RUM AND DOCTOR POPPER, SIR?
WELL, NO SENSE HAVING IT GO TO WASTE.
YOU CAN'T BLAME ME FOR REACTING THE WAY I DID. IF I HAD KILLED YOU IT WOULD'VE BEEN YOUR OWN FAULT.
TRUST ME WHEN I SAY...
...I WASN'T THE LEAST BIT WORRIED.
I WON'T BORE YOU WITH ANYTHING THAT HAPPENED *BEFORE* THIS MOMENT, DR. OCTAVIUS, BECAUSE THIS IS THE MOMENT WHEN EVERYTHING CHANGES.
IN WHAT WAY?

IN THE WAY THAT SPELLS THE *END* OF *SPIDER-MAN!*
CRACK
I'VE WORKED WITH OTHERS *BEFORE*, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE SUGGESTING.
IT DOESN'T ALWAYS GO AS SMOOTHLY AS YOU'D EXPECT.
AH YES. YOU'RE REFERRING TO YOUR *SINISTER SIX.*
WELL, ALL I CAN SAY IS THIS TIME YOU WON'T BE WORKING WITH A BUNCH OF AMATEURS.
YOU'LL BE WORKING WITH HIS *GREATEST* ENEMY.
I'D SAY THAT'S UP FOR DEBATE.
WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?
DO YOU REALLY HAVE TO ASK?
I DIDN'T THINK SO.

SURPRISINGLY, THE PARTNERSHIP WENT BETTER THAN I EXPECTED.

I GOT TO WORK WITH THE FINEST EQUIPMENT MONEY COULD BUY...

AND NORMAN GOT TO HARNESS THE GREATEST SCIENTIFIC MIND OF HIS GENERATION.

WHICH, I SUSPECT, IS THE REAL REASON HE WANTED TO TEAM UP.

AS BOLD AS HE WAS, JUMPING BACK INTO THE THICK OF THINGS AFTER SO MANY YEARS AWAY IS NOT SOMETHING YOU WANT TO DO ALONE.

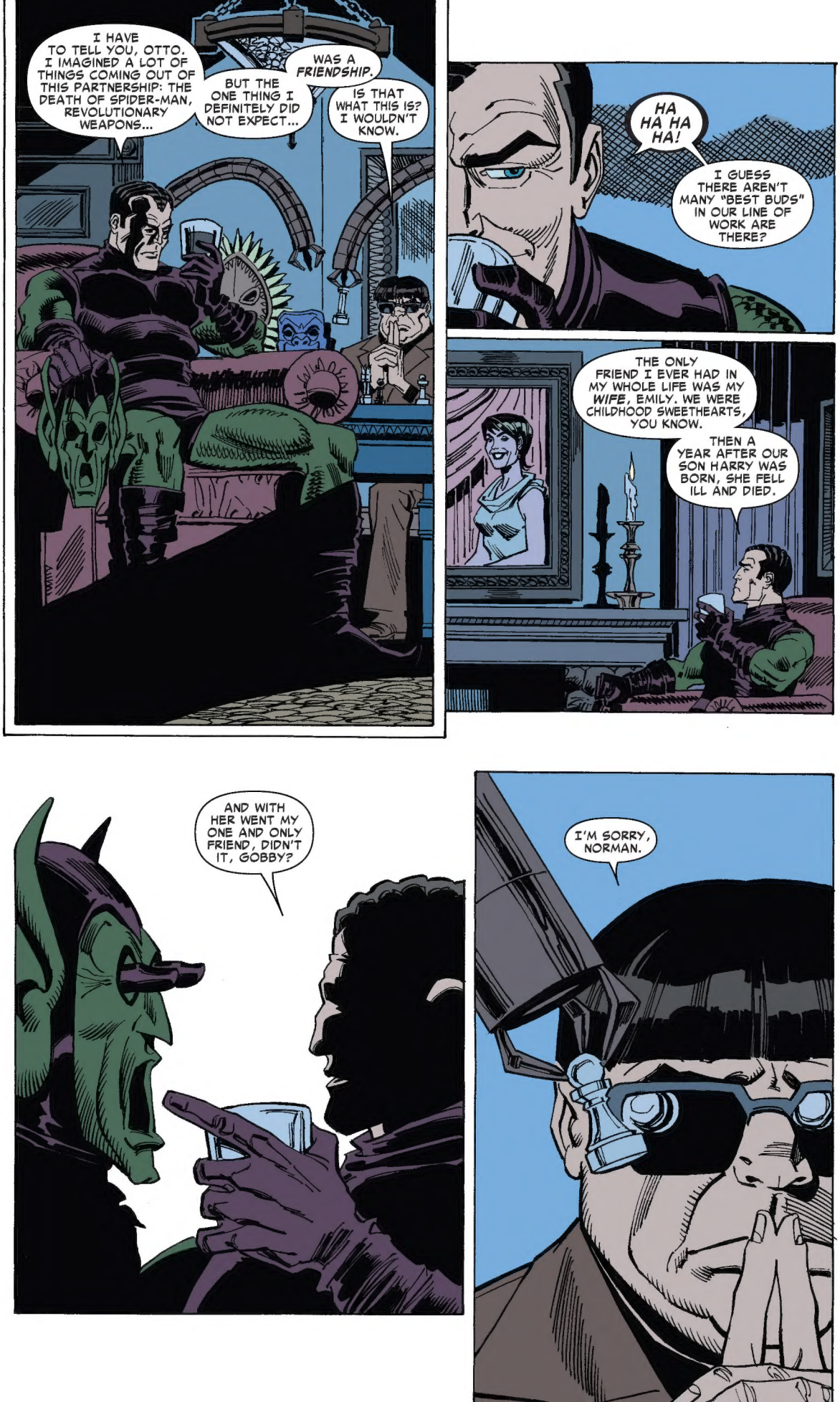
AND TOGETHER WE CREATED SOME OF THE MOST REMARKABLE CREATIONS.

NOT TO MENTION...

IT BEGAN TO BE FUN.

IT BECAME CLEAR THAT WE WERE BETTER OFF AS A TEAM.

AND THAT WITH OUR COMBINED EXPERTISE WE COULD ACTUALLY SQUASH THE SPIDER FOR GOOD!


I HAVE TO TELL YOU, OTTO. I IMAGINED A LOT OF THINGS COMING OUT OF THIS PARTNERSHIP: THE DEATH OF SPIDER-MAN, REVOLUTIONARY WEAPONS...
BUT THE ONE THING I DEFINITELY DID NOT EXPECT...
WAS A *FRIENDSHIP.*
IS THAT WHAT THIS IS? I WOULDN'T KNOW.
HA HA HA HA!
I GUESS THERE AREN'T MANY "BEST BUDS" IN OUR LINE OF WORK ARE THERE?
THE ONLY FRIEND I EVER HAD IN MY WHOLE LIFE WAS MY *WIFE*, EMILY. WE WERE CHILDHOOD SWEETHEARTS, YOU KNOW.
THEN A YEAR AFTER OUR SON HARRY WAS BORN, SHE FELL ILL AND DIED.
AND WITH HER WENT MY ONE AND ONLY FRIEND, DIDN'T IT, GOBBY?
I'M SORRY, NORMAN.

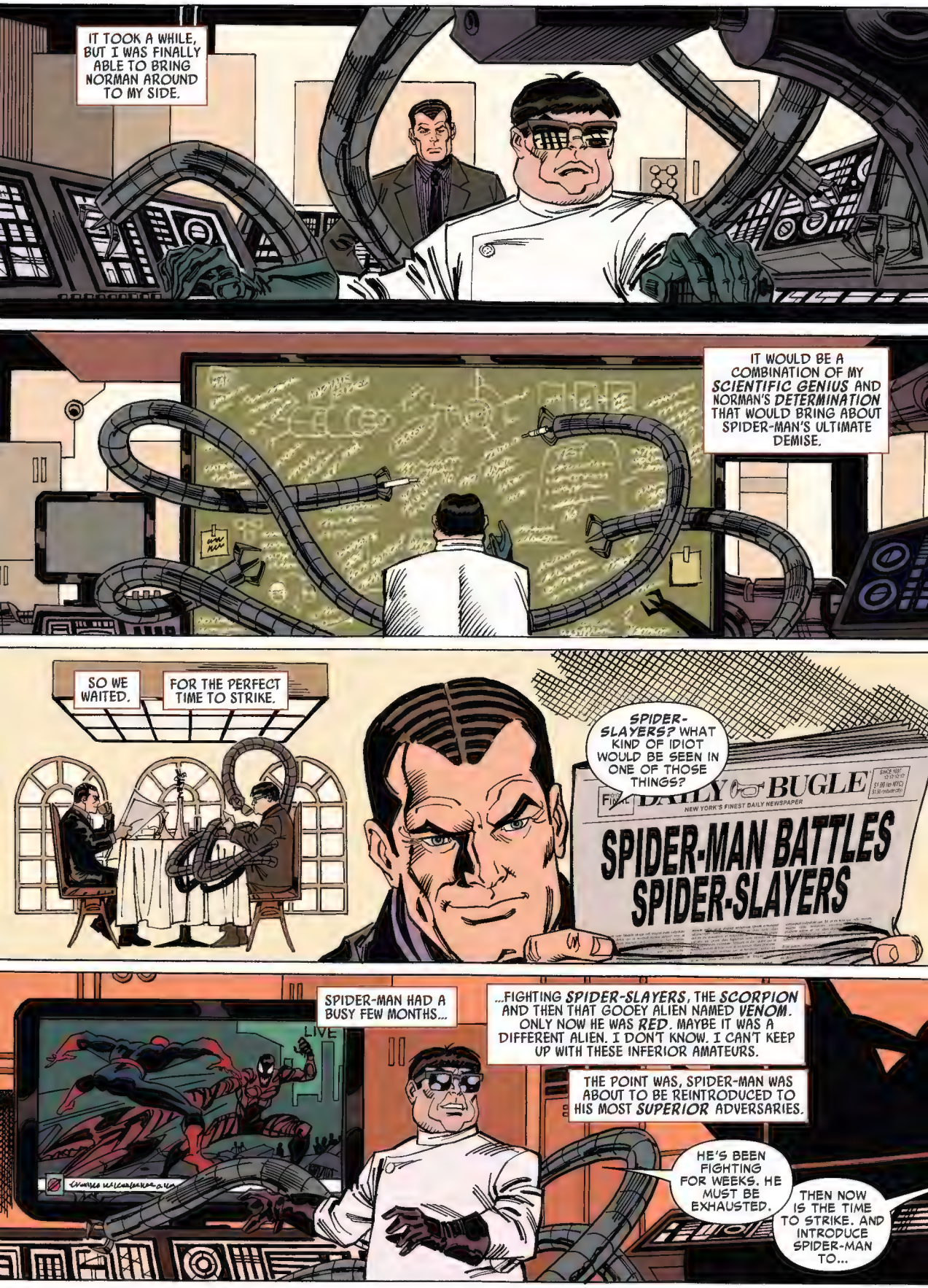
AW HELL, IT'S ONE MORE FRIEND THAN YOU HAD.
HA HA HA HA HA HA!
I WAS ENGAGED ONCE, ACTUALLY.
PFFFFFT!
WHAT?!
YOU OLD DOG!
WHAT, WAS SHE BLIND?
I'M JUST KIDDING. I'M SURE YOU'RE VERY HANDSOME UNDER THOSE GLASSES.
HERE, LET ME SEE.
NO, I'D RATHER N--
LET ME SEE THEM!
SEE, YOU'RE NOT SO BAD.

IN A GILBERT GOTTFRIED SORT OF WAY.
WHO WAS SHE? YOUR *FIANCEE*, THAT IS.
HER NAME WAS MARY ALICE. SHE WAS A CO-WORKER AT THE RESEARCH CENTER I WAS WORKING AT.
"BUT MY MOTHER DIDN'T APPROVE. SAID I NEEDED TO TAKE CARE OF *HER* AND NOT SOME GIRL I HARDLY KNEW.
"I KNEW SHE WAS WRONG, OF COURSE. THAT SHE HAD NO RIGHT TO SUGGEST SUCH A THING. BUT SHE WAS MY MOTHER, AFTER ALL.
"AND SO I CALLED OFF THE ENGAGEMENT. SENT THE ONE FRIEND I HAD MADE IN THIS WORLD AWAY IN TEARS.
"IT BROKE MY HEART, REALLY.
"AND TO ADD INSULT TO INJURY, MY MOTHER THEN MET A SUITOR OF HER OWN AND LEFT ME IN THE DUST.
"I NEARLY CHOKED ON THE HYPOCRISY."
IS THAT WHAT LED TO THIS WHOLE OCTOPUS LOOK?
IN A WAY.
WELL, THAT'S WHAT WE DO, ISN'T IT? BURY IT DOWN DEEP AND COVER IT ALL UP WITH A BUNCH OF NONSENSE.
BUT THE TRUTH IS, OTTO, NOT A DAY GOES BY THAT I DON'T THINK ABOUT MY EMILY.
DID YOU EVER THINK OF LOOKING MARY ALICE UP?
MAYBE ONE DAY. WHEN I'VE REACHED MY GOAL OF BEING THE GREATEST SCIENTIST THAT EVER LIVED.
I BEG YOUR PARDON.

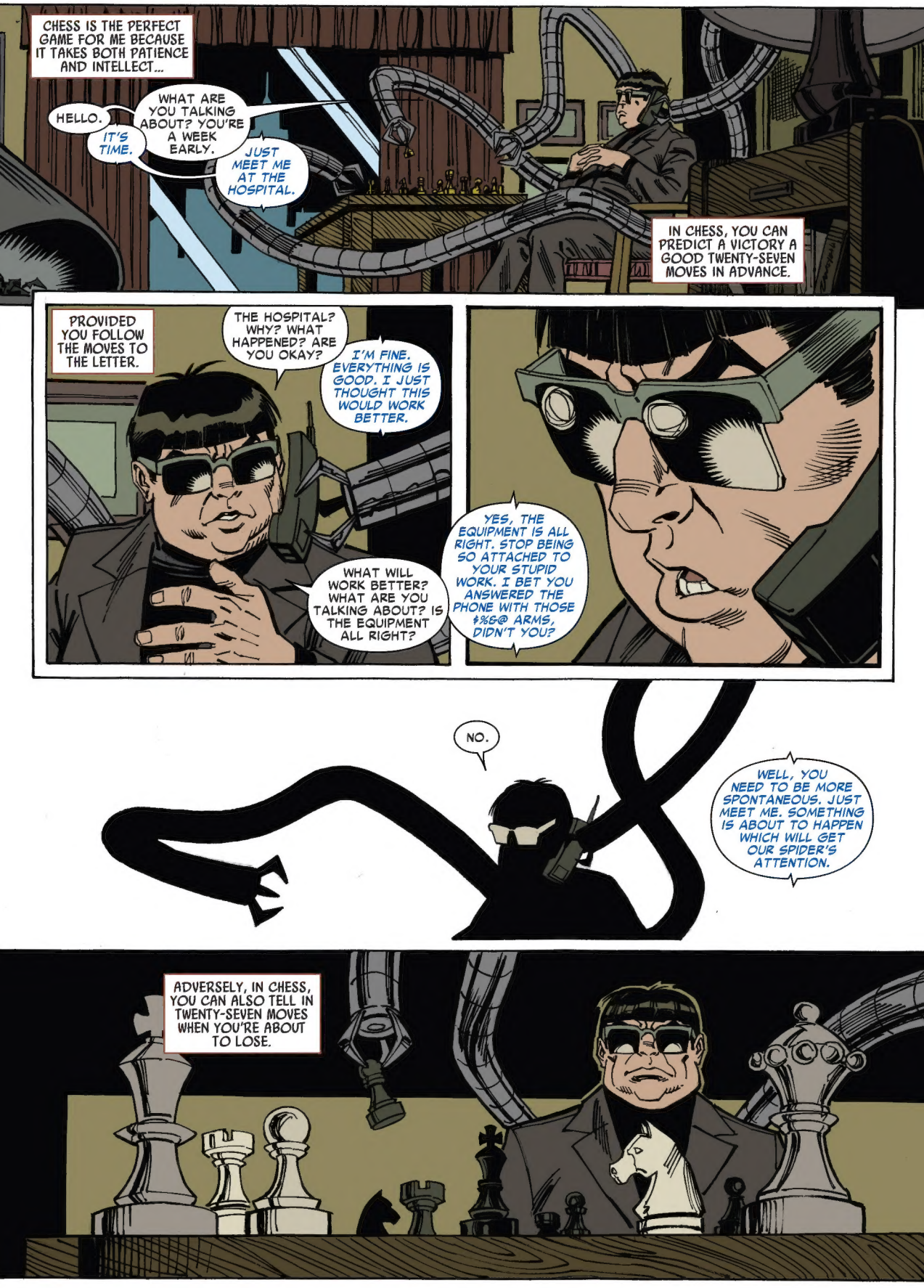
YOUR GOAL SHOULD BE THE DESTRUCTION OF SPIDER-MAN!
THEY'RE ONE AND THE SAME, NORMAN.
I JUST PREFER TO DO IT THROUGH SCIENCE.
YOU'LL DO IT THE WAY I SAY!
I HAVEN'T REMAINED HIDDEN FOR YEARS TO MERELY KILL SPIDER-MAN! I WANT TO DESTROY HIM! TO LEVEL HIM! TO CRUSH HIS VERY SOUL. THEN AND ONLY THEN...
CRASH!
WILL IT BE WORTHY OF THE GOBLIN'S RETURN!

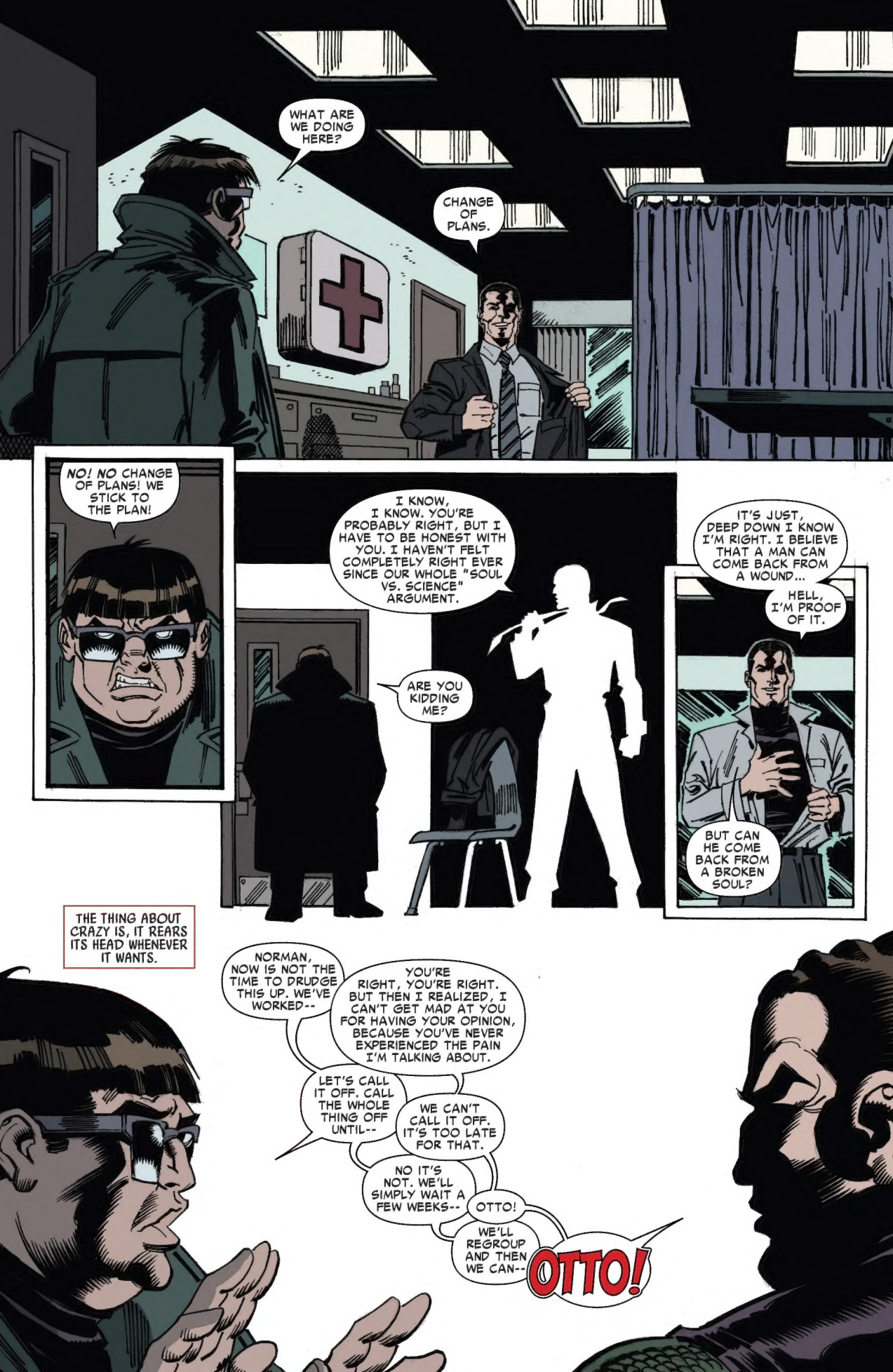
AND YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT!
SMACK!
THE THING ABOUT "CRAZY" IS IT REARS ITS HEAD WHENEVER IT WANTS.
YOU FEEL THAT STING OF BETRAYAL, OTTO? THAT'S WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT. IT'S NOT THE SLAP THAT HURTS. IT'S THAT IT CAME FROM A FRIEN--
AAAAHHHHHH!
AHHHH!
AND DO YOU FEEL THE METAL THAT'S CRUSHING YOUR SKULL, NORMAN? THAT'S SCIENCE. AND IF IT'S GOOD ENOUGH TO SILENCE YOU, IT'S GOOD ENOUGH TO SILENCE SPIDER-MAN.
I'M NOT USE TO "CRAZY." I WORK IN ABSOLUTES. IN PERCENTAGES.
ZZZZZZT!
BUT I DON'T WANT TO SILENCE HIM! I WANT TO DESTROY HIM.
MY CALCULATIONS ARE PRECISE. MY ISSUES, IF YOU CAN CALL THEM THAT, ARE MORE OBSESSION BASED.

CRASH!
THEN DO THE RESEARCH!
BUT WHAT STOPPED ME FROM DISSOLVING THIS PARTNERSHIP RIGHT THEN AND THERE, WAS THAT I KNEW...
EVEN THE MOST PERFECT FORMULA...
NEEDS A SPARK.
CRACKLE
NORMAN, DON'T! WE WANT THE SAME THING!
THE DESTRUCTION OF SPIDER-MAN!
LET'S NOT WASTE OUR ENERGY ON EACH OTHER.
AND JUST AS QUICKLY AS IT APPEARS...
YOU'RE RIGHT.
CLICK
CRAZY DISAPPEARS.
PLUS THIS SKIRMISH HAS CONVINCED ME I OBVIOUSLY NEED MORE TIME TO RECOVER.


IT TOOK A WHILE, BUT I WAS FINALLY ABLE TO BRING NORMAN AROUND TO MY SIDE.
IT WOULD BE A COMBINATION OF MY SCIENTIFIC GENIUS AND NORMAN'S DETERMINATION THAT WOULD BRING ABOUT SPIDER-MAN'S ULTIMATE DEMISE.
SO WE WAITED.
FOR THE PERFECT TIME TO STRIKE.
SPIDER-SLAYERS? WHAT KIND OF IDIOT WOULD BE SEEN IN ONE OF THOSE THINGS?
DAILY BUGLE
NEW YORK'S FINEST DAILY NEWSPAPER
SPIDER-MAN BATTLES SPIDER-SLAYERS
SPIDER-MAN HAD A BUSY FEW MONTHS...
LIVE
...FIGHTING SPIDER-SLAYERS, THE SCORPION AND THEN THAT GOOEY ALIEN NAMED VENOM. ONLY NOW HE WAS RED. MAYBE IT WAS A DIFFERENT ALIEN. I DON'T KNOW. I CAN'T KEEP UP WITH THESE INFERIOR AMATEURS.
THE POINT WAS, SPIDER-MAN WAS ABOUT TO BE REINTRODUCED TO HIS MOST SUPERIOR ADVERSARIES.
HE'S BEEN FIGHTING FOR WEEKS. HE MUST BE EXHAUSTED.
THEN NOW IS THE TIME TO STRIKE. AND INTRODUCE SPIDER-MAN TO...

THE OCTO-GOBLIN!
I HAVE TO CONFESS, OTTO. I THINK WE MAKE AN INCREDIBLE TEAM.
I FELT THE SAME WAY. SEEING MY WORK COME TO FRUITION AND SEEING IT ON NORMAN LIKE THAT, I FELT, I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'D CALL IT. WHATEVER THE OPPOSITE OF JEALOUSY IS.
NORMAN WAS RIGHT. THE SINISTER SIX WERE MORE LIKE SECOND RATE HENCHMEN. MY MINIONS, IF YOU WILL. BUT NOW I HAD AN *EQUAL*. SOMEONE I FELT WAS WORTHY OF MY TIME AND INTELLECT. AND IT FELT RIGHT.
I RETURNED TO AMERICA AND WORKED OUT THE ARRANGEMENTS. THE WEEKS OF PLANNING WERE FINALLY COMING TOGETHER AND I WAS AS EXCITED AS A KID ON SCIENCE FAIR MORNING.
THEN I GOT THE PHONE CALL.
BRRRRIIIINNNNGGGG


CHESS IS THE PERFECT GAME FOR ME BECAUSE IT TAKES BOTH PATIENCE AND INTELLECT...
HELLO.
IT'S TIME.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU'RE A WEEK EARLY.
JUST MEET ME AT THE HOSPITAL.
IN CHESS, YOU CAN PREDICT A VICTORY A GOOD TWENTY-SEVEN MOVES IN ADVANCE.
PROVIDED YOU FOLLOW THE MOVES TO THE LETTER.
THE HOSPITAL? WHY? WHAT HAPPENED? ARE YOU OKAY?
I'M FINE. EVERYTHING IS GOOD. I JUST THOUGHT THIS WOULD WORK BETTER.
WHAT WILL WORK BETTER? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? IS THE EQUIPMENT ALL RIGHT?
YES, THE EQUIPMENT IS ALL RIGHT. STOP BEING SO ATTACHED TO YOUR STUPID WORK. I BET YOU ANSWERED THE PHONE WITH THOSE $%&@ ARMS, DIDN'T YOU?
NO.
WELL, YOU NEED TO BE MORE SPONTANEOUS. JUST MEET ME. SOMETHING IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN WHICH WILL GET OUR SPIDER'S ATTENTION.
ADVERSELY, IN CHESS, YOU CAN ALSO TELL IN TWENTY-SEVEN MOVES WHEN YOU'RE ABOUT TO LOSE.


WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE?
CHANGE OF PLANS.
NO! NO CHANGE OF PLANS! WE STICK TO THE PLAN!
I KNOW, I KNOW. YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT, BUT I HAVE TO BE HONEST WITH YOU. I HAVEN'T FELT COMPLETELY RIGHT EVER SINCE OUR WHOLE "SOUL VS. SCIENCE" ARGUMENT.
ARE YOU KIDDING ME?
IT'S JUST, DEEP DOWN I KNOW I'M RIGHT. I BELIEVE THAT A MAN CAN COME BACK FROM A WOUND...
HELL, I'M PROOF OF IT.
BUT CAN HE COME BACK FROM A BROKEN SOUL?
THE THING ABOUT CRAZY IS, IT REARS ITS HEAD WHENEVER IT WANTS.
NORMAN, NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO DRUDGE THIS UP. WE'VE WORKED--
YOU'RE RIGHT, YOU'RE RIGHT. BUT THEN I REALIZED, I CAN'T GET MAD AT YOU FOR HAVING YOUR OPINION, BECAUSE YOU'VE NEVER EXPERIENCED THE PAIN I'M TALKING ABOUT.
LET'S CALL IT OFF. CALL THE WHOLE THING OFF UNTIL--
WE CAN'T CALL IT OFF. IT'S TOO LATE FOR THAT.
NO IT'S NOT. WE'LL SIMPLY WAIT A FEW WEEKS--
OTTO!
WE'LL REGROUP AND THEN WE CAN--
OTTO!

I FOUND MARY ALICE.
YOU WHAT?
I FOUND YOUR FIANCEE. SORRY, EX-FIANCEE.
AND NOW, BEAR WITH ME BECAUSE SOMETIMES THE EFFECT OF THE GOBLIN FORMULA MAKES ME A LITTLE, YOU KNOW... WHATEVER, BUT, WELL, I WANTED YOU TO FEEL THE KIND OF PAIN AND LOSS THAT I WAS TALKING ABOUT, SO...
I HAD HER CAR RUN OFF THE ROAD.
YOU DID WHAT?!
RELAX! RELAX! SHE'S FINE. JUST A LITTLE BANGED UP...MOSTLY. THE DOCTORS GAVE HER A BLOOD TRANSFUSION AND SHE'S EXPECTED TO MAKE A FULL RECOVERY.
OH THANK GOD!
YES, I'VE LEARNED MY LESSON.

WHICH IS WHY I THEN INFECTED HER BLOOD WITH A DEADLY VIRUS.
To Be Continued!